



Michigan Municipal Electric Association

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Baraga

Bay City

Charlevoix

Chelsea

Clinton

Coldwater

Croswell

Crystal Falls

Daggett

Dowagiac

Eaton Rapids

Escanaba

Gladstone

Grand Haven

Harbor Springs

Hart

Hillsdale

Holland

L'Anse

Lansing

Lowell

Marquette

Marshall

Negaunee

Newberry

Niles

Norway

Paw Paw

Petoskey

Portland

St. Louis

Sebewaing

South Haven

Stephenson

Sturgis

Traverse City

Union City

Wakefield

Wyandotte

Zeeland

Senator Mike Nofs, Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy and Technology
Lansing, MI 48909

Chairman Nofs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

The Michigan Municipal Electric Association (MMEA) is Michigan's trade group for municipally owned electric utilities. The 40 communities in MMEA which own and operate their own electric utilities provide for approximately eight percent of Michigan's total electric retail sales.

As units of local government, municipal electric systems are non-profit, community owned and operated, and regulated directly by the communities they serve through elected and/or appointed officials. As such, every citizen is an owner of the utility - having the opportunity to have a direct say in decisions that affect rates, service, and policy.

Municipal utilities take a long-term planning approach to ensure generation capacity is available for future reliability at a reasonable price. In fact, MMEA members have a legal obligation-to-serve all customers within their service territory that request service.

As Michigan proceeds to retire older less efficient coal plants, MMEA understands the importance of ensuring that the State of Michigan will have sufficient generation capacity to meet its long-term electric needs. We also recognize that renewable energy and waste reduction programs are critical components of any sound power supply plan.

As such, **MMEA supports SB 437 & 438** and the public policy they advance.

I would be pleased to take any questions that you may have.

Regards,

Jim Weeks
Executive Director

C: Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Technology
Members of the MMEA Board of Directors